

## REMARKS

Independent Claim 53 is directed to a method performed by a computer. After displaying a question, and an answer to that question, the computer displays a prompt to answer the question. Next, the computer receives two characters. Depending on the correctness or incorrectness of the received characters when compared with the relevant characters in the answer to the question, the computer performs one of four distinct acts. Those four acts are summarized in the table below:

|   | <b>First Character</b> | <b>Second Character</b> | <b>Display</b>   |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | Correct                | Correct                 | Display the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> received characters in a first font.   |
| 2 | Correct                | Incorrect               | Display the 1 <sup>st</sup> received character in the first font and display the 2 <sup>nd</sup> received character in a second font.  |
| 3 | Incorrect              | Correct <sup>1</sup>    | Display the 1 <sup>st</sup> received character in the second font and overwrite the 1 <sup>st</sup> received character with the 2 <sup>nd</sup> received character in the first font.  |
| 4 | Incorrect              | Incorrect <sup>2</sup>  | Display the 1 <sup>st</sup> received character in the second font and overwrite the 1 <sup>st</sup> received character with the 2 <sup>nd</sup> received character in the second font. |

The first font can be used to indicate correct characters and the second font can be used to indicate incorrect characters. Independent claim 65 is similar to independent claim 53 with the exception of acts 2 and 3 in the above table are not included in claim 65.

The Examiner rejected claims 53 – 73 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). In regard to independent claims 53 and 65, the Examiner stated:

“What Ziv-el fails to explicitly teach is replacing the first received character with the second character if and only if the first received character is not equal to the first keyword. [Claims 53 & 65]. However, replacing incorrect characters with correct characters in a response is understood to be performed by a student modifying the response in the text entry field in reply to the dynamic evaluation. Ziv-El would merely modify detected incorrect characters by replacing them with the most recently typed character when a student is not allowed to proceed typing the response until the next consecutive correct character is input, in order to

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<sup>1</sup> The second received character is equal to the first character of the answer keyword.

<sup>2</sup> The second received character is not equal to the first character of the answer keyword.

provide more immediate reinforcement to the student when an incorrect character is typed then when the entire response is evaluated. To wit, Ziv-El teaches where the student would modify an incorrect character before typing the remaining response. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to allow the replacement of the first received character with the second received character only if the first received character is not equal to the first keyword {incorrect} in the method of Ziv-El, in order to provide color-coded or font-coded feedback to a student as soon as a character is typed, rather than after the entire response has been typed and evaluated [Claims 53 and 65].”

The Examiner is correct in stating that Ziv-El fails to teach replacing the first received character with the second received character if and only if the first received character is not equal to the first character of the keyword. One of the primary purposes of Ziv-El is to provide the teacher with real-time feedback of the correct and incorrect answers provided by the students. As shown in Figure 14 of Ziv-El, which is reproduced below, a question is displayed to the teacher in item 113, the correct answers to the question are displayed to the teacher in item 181, and the real-time answers provided by the students to the question are displayed to the teacher in the “Response” column.

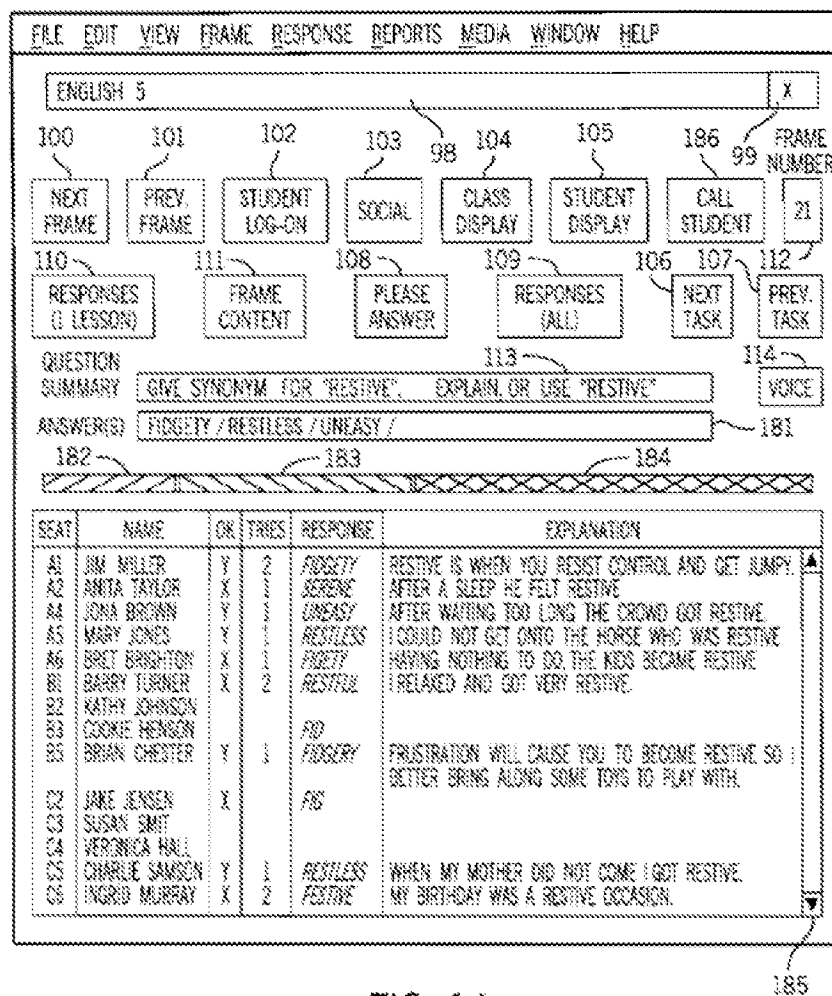


FIG. 14

As stated by Ziv-El:

“When students respond on their keyboards 10, their responses are sent character by character in real time to the responses buffer 51 on response server 6, so that the teacher can observe, virtually character by character, on the monitor 3, a teaches class response window (FIG.14) showing a large number of students responding simultaneously. The responses appear color-coded, such as green if the student is on the correct track, red for wrong, and blue if a response is the result of a question which does not have a programmed correct answer or the keyword has not yet been typed in a Keyword exercise explained with reference to FIG. 4.” *Ziv-el*, col. 11, lns. 19-29.

Thus, the “Response” column of the Ziv-El system is intended to provide the teacher with real-time feedback regarding students’ correct and incorrect answers. If the Ziv-El training system were to be modified to replace the first received character with the second received character if and only if the first received character is not equal to the first character of the keyword, then the teacher’s “Response” column would be useless to the teacher. The modified Ziv-El system

would not provide any feedback regarding students' incorrect answers to the teacher. Such a modification would drastically reduce the value of the Ziv-El system.

Applicant is having difficulty understanding Examiner's argument regarding the motive to modify Ziv-El as required by the previously pending independent claims. As Applicant best understands Examiner's argument, because a student could modify incorrect answers in Ziv-El, one of skill in the art would modify Ziv-El to allow the replacement of an incorrect first received character with a second received character.

Applicant sees absolutely no relationship between allowing a student to modify the student's answer in Ziv-El and the motivation to modify Ziv-El as required by independent claims 53 and 65. Nonetheless, in an effort to further the prosecution of this application, Applicant has added the following limitation to the two currently pending independent claims:

“wherein no characters are entered into the keyboard by the learner in between the first received character entered into the keyboard by the learner and the second received character entered into the keyboard by the learner.”

The new limitation requires that there be no characters, correct or incorrect, entered in between the claimed first received character and the claimed second received character. The first received character and the second received character must be sequential characters. Thus, the currently pending independent claims do not allow the learner to modify his answer in between the entering of an incorrect first received character and an incorrect second received character. Thus, the currently pending independent claims require receiving a first incorrect character and a second incorrect character, without any intervening characters, such as a backspace and another character, and displaying the first incorrect character in the second font and then overwriting the first incorrect character with the second incorrect character in the second font. Applicant submits that no cited prior art in any combination performs such a method.

**Applicant hereby requests an examiner interview to discuss Examiner's rejection of independent claims 53 and 65 BEFORE the Examiner issues another office action.** Perhaps after such an interview, Applicant will better understand the Examiner's rejection and will be able to provide a more substantive response.

As Applicant believes that the currently pending independent claims are allowable over the art of record for the reason discussed above, Applicant likewise believes that the claims that depend from the independent claims are likewise allowable.

In an effort to allow the Examiner to rapidly locate support in the specification for the newly submitted limitation, Applicant provides the following specific citations.

As paragraph 21 states:

“Until a correct response to block 408 is given, that is, until a character is typed correctly, the learner is prohibited from typing to the next blank element.”

Similarly, as paragraph 20 states:

“When an incorrect alphabetic character is typed, the incorrect alphabetic character may be highlighted in red . . .”

## CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 11, 2008

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